



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE WOMAN SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for her involvement in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

**Ester M. Queen**, 43, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to five years in federal prison without parole.

On April 21, 2005, **Queen** pleaded guilty to her role in a methamphetamine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, **Queen** admitted that she conspired to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine between March 10 and Sept. 2, 2004.

A second co-defendant also has pleaded guilty in this case.

On April 29, 2005, **Shawna D. Drake**, 21, of Independence, pleaded guilty to her role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Drake** admitted that she distributed five grams or more of methamphetamine between March 10 and Sept. 2, 2004. Drake's sentencing hearing is scheduled to take place on Monday.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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